

# Veterans Day *2005*



Student Resources





## "A SOLDIER KNOWN BUT TO GOD"

In 1921, an American soldier—his name “known but to God”—was buried on a Virginia hillside overlooking the Potomac River and the city of Washington, DC. The burial site of this unknown World War I soldier in Arlington National Cemetery symbolized dignity and reverence for America’s veterans.

Similar ceremonies occurred earlier in England and France, where an “unknown soldier” of the Great War was buried in each nation’s highest place of honor (in England, Westminster Abbey; in France, the Arc de Triomphe).

These memorial gestures all took place on November 11, giving universal recognition to the celebrated ending of World War I hostilities at 11 a.m., November 11, 1918 (the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month). The day became known as “Armistice Day.”

Armistice Day officially received its name in America in 1926 through a Congressional resolution. It became a national holiday 12 years later by similar Congressional action. If World War I had indeed been “the war to end all wars,” November 11 might still be called Armistice Day. But in 1939, World War II broke out in Europe and shattered that dream. Of the 16 million Americans who served in the Armed Forces during World War II, more than 400,000 died.

## “TO HONOR VETERANS OF ALL WARS”

Raymond Weeks of Birmingham, Alabama, organized a Veterans Day parade for that city on November 11, 1947, to honor all of America's veterans for their loyal service. Later, U.S. Representative Edward H. Rees of Kansas proposed legislation changing the name of Armistice Day to Veterans Day to honor all those who have served America in all wars.

In 1954, President Eisenhower signed a bill proclaiming November 11th as Veterans Day and called upon Americans everywhere to rededicate themselves to the cause of peace. He issued a Presidential Order directing the head of the Veterans Administration, now the Department of Veterans Affairs, to form a Veterans Day National Committee to organize and oversee the national observance of Veterans Day. In addition to fulfilling that mission, the committee oversees the annual production and distribution of the Veterans Day Poster and this Veterans Day Teachers Resource Guide.

In 1968, Congress moved Veterans Day to the fourth Monday in October. However, it became apparent that the November 11th date was historically significant to a great many Americans. As a result, Congress formally returned the observance of Veterans Day to its traditional date in 1978.

The Veterans Day National Ceremony is held each year on November 11th at Arlington National Cemetery. At 11 a.m., a color guard, made up of members from each of the military services, renders honors to America's war dead during a tradition-rich ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns.

The President or his representative places a wreath at the Tomb and a bugler sounds “Taps.” The balance of the ceremony, including a “Parade of Flags” by numerous veterans service organizations, takes place inside the Memorial Amphitheater, adjacent to the Tomb.

In addition to planning and coordinating the National Veterans Day Ceremony, the Veterans Day National Committee supports a number of Veterans Day Regional Sites. These sites conduct Veterans Day celebrations that provide excellent examples for other communities to follow.

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**1978.**





During the 1928 national elections, Herbert Hoover told voters: "We in America today are nearer to the final triumph over poverty than ever before in the history of any land."

Hoover won in a landslide, but ironically the Great Depression came soon after and Hoover was under tremendous pressure to relieve the economic slump. On April 20, 1929, less than two months after his inauguration, he received a letter from General Frank T. Hines, the director of the Veterans' Bureau, suggesting the consolidation of all federal veterans' activities into one agency. This would improve government efficiency and help relieve financial pressure resulting from the Depression.

In Hoover's December 1929 State of the Union address, he explained: "I am convinced that we will gain in efficiency, economy, and more uniform administration and better definition of national policies if the Pension Bureau, the National Home for Volunteer Soldiers, and the Veterans' Bureau are brought together under a single agency." The Veterans' Administration (VA) became a new independent agency on July 21, 1930, with Hoover's signing of Executive Order 5398, "Consolidation and Coordination of Governmental Activities Affecting Veterans."

President Hoover regarded caring for veterans as one of the most important functions of government. "The consolidated budget of these services for the present fiscal year amounts to approximately \$800 million, so that the new establishment (VA) becomes one of the most important functions in the government," the president said.

In 1930, there were 4.7 million veterans in America. VA operated 54 hospitals and 54 regional offices with a work force of more than 30,000 and a \$786 million budget. VA treated 54,000 veteran patients and paid \$208 million in compensation to 440,000 service-disabled veterans or dependents.

This year, the Department of Veterans Affairs celebrates its 75th anniversary of service to military veterans and their families. Today there are 25 million veterans in America. VA operates more than 1,300 sites of care, including medical centers, clinics, nursing homes, Vet Centers, regional offices and national cemeteries with a staff of 235,000 and a nearly \$70 billion dollar budget.



The Nike swoosh and McDonalds golden arches – corporate America calls them logos – are symbols that automatically identify a business in the public mind. They are closely guarded and protected and worth millions of dollars. Symbols are just as important to government agencies. A Federal agency's official seal, for example, carries the full weight and impact of the laws, resources and responsibilities vested in it by the American people.

VA's current seal dates back to 1989 when the then Veterans Administration, an independent agency of the Federal government, became a Cabinet member agency (now the Department of Veterans Affairs). This brought many changes to VA, including a new VA seal.

The reproduction and use of the VA seal is specified by law (38 CFR 1.9). It is reserved for limited use as the symbol of governmental authority invested by the Department. The seal identifies all official documents, certifications, awards, publications, regulations and reports.



A design submitted by David Gregory, a medical media production specialist working at the Indianapolis VA Medical Center was chosen. He focused on traditional American symbols and his own innovative symbolism to visually convey VA's special mission.





The Military Order of the Purple Heart Scholarship is offered to a direct descendant of a Purple Heart recipient. A Veteran's spouse, children, grandchildren, natural, adopted and or step are all eligible. Qualifications include proof of the Purple Heart, 3.5 GPA and a full time student at a College/University or Trade School. Please visit their web site at, [www.purpleheart.org](http://www.purpleheart.org). It is located in the list of links at the bottom of their home page under "Scholarship Information and Application."

The Military Officers Association of America provides scholarships, interest free loans, and grants available to children of military personnel seeking their undergraduate degree. The online application is available in early November and information on the different programs may be found at [www.moaa.org/education](http://www.moaa.org/education).

The DAV Youth Volunteer Scholarship – The Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship encourages young people to get involved in volunteer work to assist sick and disabled veterans. This program recognizes young volunteers who are active participants in the VA Voluntary Service program. Volunteers age 21 or younger, volunteering a minimum of 100 hours at a VA medical center during the previous calendar year, are eligible. Scholarships can be used at any accredited institution of higher learning; to include universities, colleges, community colleges, vocational schools, etc. Scholarships must be

utilized in full prior to the recipient attaining the age of 25. Employees of the DAV national organization and their families are not eligible to receive a scholarship. Nominations for this award must be submitted by the Voluntary Services Program Manager at the VA Medical Center.

The VFW Veterans Tribute Scholarship is available for sons and grandsons, daughters and granddaughters (ages 16 -18) of U.S. military veterans or military personnel. Competition is based on a 1,500 point total including the student's grade point average, community service, and involvement in VFW youth activities. The deadline is December 31 of each year and the winners are announced in January. Complete information and entry forms can be accessed at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org).

The Women's Army Corps Veteran's Association Scholarship recognizes relatives of Army Service Women. This scholarship is based upon academic achievement and leadership as expressed through co-curricular activities and community involvement. A \$1,500.00 scholarship will be given annually. The recipient will be notified by mail. [www.armywomen.org](http://www.armywomen.org).

The Blinded Veterans Association (BVA) offers the Kathryn F. Gruber Scholarship Program. These Scholarships are available for spouses or dependent children of blinded veterans. Blindness need not be

Service Connected nor do they have to be members of BVA. Additional information is available at [www.bva.org](http://www.bva.org).

The Vietnam Veterans of America Mike Nash Memorial Scholarship is available to members of Vietnam Veterans of America or spouses, children, stepchildren, or grandchildren of Vietnam Veterans who are deceased, missing in action, or killed in action. Applications must be received by June 30th of each year. Please visit [www.vva.org/mnashsch.htm](http://www.vva.org/mnashsch.htm) for more information.

The Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc. offers a scholarship for students in good standing for at least one year. It is available for a Veteran's spouse or their linear descendants to include adopted children, stepchildren, foster children and their immediate descendants. The applicant must be enrolled or accepted to a program of any post-secondary education. Additional information is available by calling 1-800-843-8626.

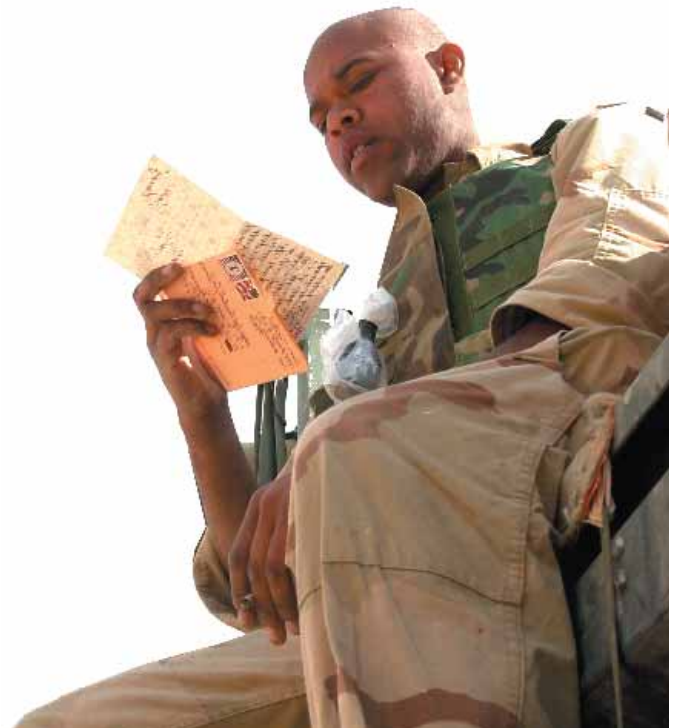
The Non Commissioned Officers Association (NCOA) offers 15 new scholarships (13 - \$900 and 2 - \$1000) each school year to the dependents of NCOA members. The deadline for submission of application packets is March 31. An information sheet and application can be obtained from our website, [www.ncoausa.org](http://www.ncoausa.org).

The LaVerne Noyes Scholarship is awarded on an annual basis to direct blood descendants of someone who has served in the U.S. Army or Navy in the World War I and whose service was terminated by death or honorable discharge. The applicant must be a United States citizen who is a blood descendant of a United States Army or Navy World War I veteran, who served for at least four months prior to November 11, 1918, and whose military service was terminated by death or an honorable discharge. A recipient must be enrolled full-time in a degree-seeking undergraduate program. This scholarship is awarded on an annual basis. The dollar amount of the scholarship will be determined by the total number of eligible recipients and the funds available from the endowment each year.

## Writing Contests

The Voice of Democracy is a broadcast essay contest for students in grades 9 -12. Students are required to write and record a script on a patriotic theme. This year's theme is "How I demonstrate my freedom." The essay, entry form and cassette or CD must be submitted to a local VFW Post. A total of more than \$2.5 million in scholarships and incentives are given each year. State competition winners are invited to Washington, D.C. to compete for \$145,000 in scholarships. Deadline for entries is November 1, 2005. Please visit [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org).

Patriot's Pen is an essay contest for students in grades 6 - 8. The entry, deadline and competition process is the same as the Voice of Democracy. Winners compete at the national level for \$68,000 in U.S. Savings Bonds.



*"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."*

## Important Things to Remember

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag should be rendered by standing at attention facing the flag with the right hand over the heart. If not in uniform, a person should remove his or her hat with the right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, with the hand over the heart. Persons in uniform should remain silent, face the flag, and render the military salute.

Display the U.S. flag every day, but especially on national and state holidays. On Memorial Day, the flag should be flown at half-staff in the forenoon (sunrise until noon), then raised to its normal position at the top of the staff. When raising the flag to half-staff, first raise it to the top of the staff, then lower it half-way. When lowering a flag that has been flying at half-staff, first raise it to the top of the staff, then lower it all the way. The U.S. flag should be displayed on or near the main building of every public institution, in or near every school on school days, and in or near every polling place on election days. Always hoist the U.S. flag briskly. Lower it slowly and ceremoniously.

## Things Not to Do

Never show disrespect to the U.S. flag. Never dip (lower quickly and then raise) the U.S. flag to any person or thing. Regimental colors, state flags and organization or institutional flags are dipped as a mark of honor. Never display the U.S. flag with the field of stars at the bottom, except as a distress signal. Never let the U.S. flag touch anything beneath it — ground, floor, water or merchandise. Never carry the U.S. flag horizontally, but always aloft and free.

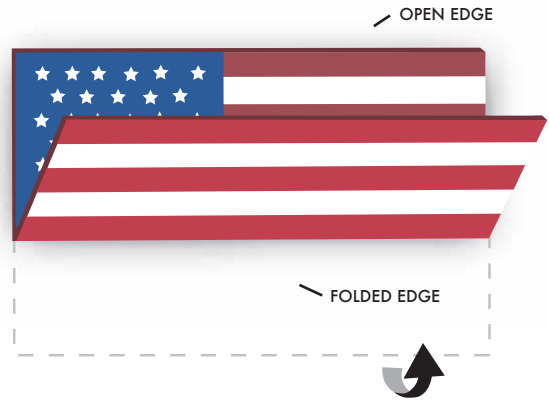
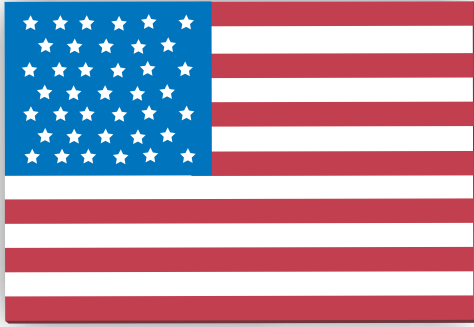
Always allow the U.S. flag to fall free — never use the U.S. flag as drapery, festooned, drawn back or up in folds. For draping platforms and decoration in general, use blue, white and red bunting. Always arrange the bunting with blue above, the white in the middle and the red below. Never fasten, display, use or store the U.S. flag in a manner that will permit it to be easily torn, soiled or damaged in any way. Never use the U.S. flag as a covering or drape for a ceiling. Never place anything on the U.S. flag and never have placed upon it, or on any part of it, or attached to it, any mark, insignia, letter, word, figure, design, picture or drawing of any nature.

The U.S. flag should not be embroidered on such articles as cushions, handkerchiefs, and the like; printed or otherwise impressed on paper napkins or boxes or anything that is designed for temporary use and discard; or used as any portion of a costume or athletic uniform. However, a flag patch may be affixed to the uniform of military personnel, fire fighters, police officers and members of patriotic organizations. Advertising signs should not be fastened to a staff from which the flag is flown.

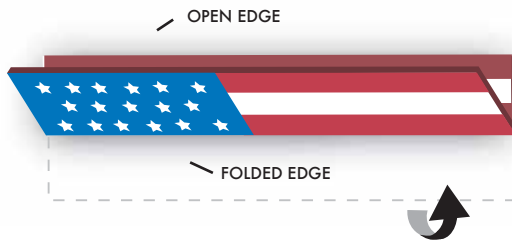


Many Marines gave their lives to raise the American flag on Mt. Suribachi on the island of Iwo Jima in 1945. Based on a photograph by Joseph Rosenthal, the Iwo Jima Memorial depicts this sacrifice. Located by Arlington National Cemetery, is a tribute to all the Marines who have fallen in combat.





(a) Fold the lower striped section of the flag over the blue field.



(b) Folded edge is then folded over to meet the open edge.



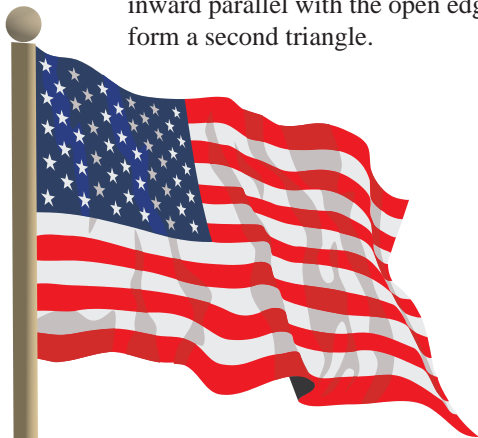
(c) A triangular fold is then started by bringing the striped corner of the folded edge to the open edge.



(d) Outer point is then turned inward parallel with the open edge to form a second triangle.



(e) Triangular folding is continued until the entire length of the flag is folded in the triangular shape with only the blue field visible.



When the U.S. flag is no longer in suitable condition for display, it should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning. Many veterans groups perform this service with dignified, respectful flag retirement ceremonies.

# America's Living Veterans

## World War I

Living Veterans **Less than 200**

Total That Served **4,734,991**



## World War II

Living Veterans **3,526,000**

Total That Served **16,112,566**



## Korean Conflict

Living Veterans **3,257,000**

Total That Served **5,720,000**



## Vietnam Era

Living Veterans **8,055,000**

Total That Served **9,200,000**



## Desert Shield/Desert Storm Era

Living Veterans **1,900,000**

Total That Served **2,322,332**



## War on Terrorism\*

Veterans \*\* **194,700**

Total That Served **1,428,383**



\*Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom

\*\*Service members who have left the military

\*\*\*As of 8/16/05. VA estimate may include veterans who both served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

**Total Living Veterans:**  
**24,737,500**



The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Rehabilitation Special Events promote the healing of body and spirit. They motivate eligible veterans to reach their full potential, improve their independence, achieve a healthier lifestyle and enjoy a higher quality of life.

Each year VA sponsors four national events for U.S. military veterans served by VA medical facilities nationwide. Each program enhances physical, social and emotional well-being of veterans who participate. Veterans involved in these events and the hundreds of VA employees and volunteers who support them each year all share a strong sense of purpose and camaraderie.

The four special events are the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic, National Veterans Wheelchair Games, National Veterans Golden Age Games and the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. To learn more about how to get involved, please log onto:

[www.1.va.gov/opa/speceven](http://www.1.va.gov/opa/speceven)



*"The Winter Sports Clinic has made a big difference in my life. I believe that there is life after an injury, and the Clinic teaches you to adapt to your disability and to believe in yourself. I enjoy sharing with newly injured veterans what is possible."*

-Terry Livingston



Winter Sports Clinic



Wheelchair Games



Golden Age Games



Creative Arts Festival

# Veterans Day National Committee 2005

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The Honorable George W. Bush  
President of the United States

## Chairman

The Honorable R. James Nicholson  
Secretary of Veterans Affairs

## Honorary Members

The Honorable Donald H. Rumsfeld  
Secretary of Defense

The Honorable Larry Craig  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs

The Honorable Steve Buyer  
Chairman  
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs

The Honorable Daniel Akaka  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs

The Honorable Lane Evans  
Ranking Democratic Member  
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs

## Members

The American Legion	Paralyzed Veterans of America	Polish Legion of American Veterans, USA	Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States
Military Order of the Purple Heart of the USA	Legion of Valor of the USA	Korean War Veterans Association	AMVETS
Pearl Harbor Survivors Association	Military Order of the World Wars	American G.I. Forum	Blinded Veterans Association
Marine Corps League	The Retired Enlisted Association	Jewish War Veterans of the USA	Army and Navy Union, USA
Military Chaplains Association of the USA	Congressional Medal of Honor Society of the USA	American Ex-Prisoners of War	Non Commissioned Officers Association of the USA
Women's Army Corps Veterans Association	Disabled American Veterans	Catholic War Veterans, USA	
	Military Officers Association of America	Vietnam Veterans of America	

## Committee Members

American Gold Star Mothers	Fleet Reserve Association	Gold Star Wives of America	Veterans of WWI of the USA
Veterans of the Vietnam War	Blue Star Mothers of America	Air Force Association	American Red Cross
Navy Seabee Veterans of America	Help Hospitalized Veterans	Air Force Sergeants Association	Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge
American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor	National Association of State Veterans Homes	National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs	National Association for Uniformed Services

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